



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES – ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION**

### **11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

#### **PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)**

- 8.5.4 Pursuing common leisure interests
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

#### **HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)**

- 203 Road transport
- 308 Commercial services & industries
- 405 Sport, recreation & entertainment
- 407 Cultural activities
- 408 Institutions

#### **11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE**

*Geraldton Club* is a very fine and substantially intact example of a commercial building in the Federation Free Style.<sup>1</sup> It has an imposing face brick façade with original French doors at first floor level opening onto recent Juliet balconies; ground-floor shop-fronts containing some original elements; a projecting corner tower with a pyramidal roof, highly decorative stucco frieze and faceted corner window over the main entrance to the club; oval windows with stucco reveals flanking the entrance; and, interiors retaining much detailing including pressed metal ceilings and a fine jarrah staircase. (Criteria 1.1 & 1.2)

*Geraldton Club* is an important component of the streetscape of Marine Terrace, south of Cathedral Avenue, that comprises a number of single and two storey commercial buildings from the early to mid-20th century, featuring awnings where former verandahs have been removed, and masonry parapets and pediments that together give the street its distinctive character. (Criterion 1.3)

#### **11.2. HISTORIC VALUE**

*Geraldton Club* illustrates the establishment of gentlemen's clubs in the English tradition in regional Western Australia in the late 1890s and early 1900s, and the nature of the facilities that such clubs provided for their members, including the

<sup>1</sup> Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989, pp. 138-39.

provision of bedroom accommodation for members and for a live-in Steward. The 1960s conversion of these and some other rooms to alternate uses, and the squash court additions (albeit intrusive), illustrates the evolution of such clubs, including admission of ladies as members in more recent years. (Criterion 2.1)

*Geraldton Club* demonstrates periods of prosperity and development in Geraldton, both when it was built in 1912-13, as Geraldton consolidated its role as a regional centre prior to World War I, and when additions were made in the 1960s, as Geraldton was further developing with the expansion of the rural economy in the post-World War II period. (Criterion 2.2)

The place is the site of John Howell Rees' 1861 store and dwelling and the major commercial enterprise subsequently developed under merchants Henry Gray, his son, Charles, and William Moore, of Gray & Co. (Criterion 2.3)

The place is associated with many significant individuals and businesses from the region, including: John Keith, who undertook the first stages of building the *Geraldton Club*, and was completed by well known builders Silverlock and Hayes; Colin Rule & Assoc. Architects, who designed the 1960s alterations and additions, carried out by Geraldton Building Co. Pty. Ltd.; Captain James Cecil Kidd, Secretary of the Club; and, Sir Edward Horne Wittenoom, Arthur Housemayne du Boulay and William Burges, the first Trustees for the place. Most well known businessmen, mine owners and pastoralists in Geraldton and the region have been members of the Club, as evidenced by its Honour Board. (Criterion 2.3)

*Geraldton Club* was designed by renowned architect A. E. Cox, of Oldham & Cox. The only gentlemen's club known to have been designed by him, it is a very fine example of his design work and the Federation Free style. (Criteria 2.3 and 2.4)

### **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

From 1861 to 1912, the site of *Geraldton Club* was part of one of the largest commercial enterprises in the region. Any future re-development at the rear of the 1913 *Geraldton Club* building may afford an opportunity for some archaeological investigation. (Criterion 3.1)

### **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*Geraldton Club* is highly valued by the community of Geraldton, and the wider community of the surrounding district and the Mid-West region, for aesthetic, social and cultural reasons, which, since its completion in 1913, has been in continuous operation as a gentlemen's club, and in recent years, subsequent to admission of women members, for men and women. (Criterion 4.1)

*Geraldton Club* contributes to the community's sense of place as one of the oldest continuing social venues in that city and region, and a notable part of the streetscape of Marine Terrace, the main street of Geraldton. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

*Geraldton Club* is a rare example of a purpose designed and built Federation Free style building for a gentlemen's club in regional Western Australia, which has continued to serve its intended purpose from 1913 through into the 21st century, and is rare as a place incorporating shop premises on the ground floor and club premises on the first floor. (Criteria 5.1 and 5.2)

## **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Geraldton Club* is a good example of a prominent building in the Federation Free style. (Criterion 6.2)

*Geraldton Club* is representative of cultural institutes in Geraldton. (Criterion 6.2)

## **12.3 CONDITION**

The fabric of *Geraldton Club* is in good condition considering the age of the building, constructed in 1912-13. The brickwork is suffering from some quite severe erosion of mortar from joints especially around the window openings to the first floor on the southern elevation. There is evidence of repairs to brickwork on the face of the corner tower element, and there is also considerable leaching from render or paint on the brickwork of the façade generally. The roof has been replaced; however, there is evidence of some leaks either through the roof where tiles have moved, or from inadequate roof drainage design.

The joinery of the building is also showing evidence of deterioration especially where it is in exposed locations. Original joinery is however no longer extant on the most exposed western elevation. The fabric of the covered terrace and the squash courts constructed in the 1960s is also showing evidence of age and deterioration. There is also some deterioration of the concrete to the Juliet balconies on the eastern elevation. An inspection of the balconies by a structural engineer is recommended.

## **12.4 INTEGRITY**

*Geraldton Club* is still used as the headquarters of *Geraldton Club* and as such it has a very high level of integrity. The ground floor is still used for commercial purposes to support the activities of the club.

## **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

*Geraldton Club* retains a high level of authenticity. The main changes that have occurred include the loss of the original verandahs. The eastern (front) verandah was removed in the 1950s, and replaced with the concrete Juliet balconies. The back verandah was removed in the 1960s, when the squash courts were constructed, and at that period most of the windows and French doors from the western elevation were also removed and replaced at first floor level by aluminium framed windows to the new members' lounge. Also at that period some alterations were made to the interior, including the removal of internal walls to open up the former reading room and card rooms to create the new billiards room. Also at this time the existing toilets and bathroom were converted to ladies toilets and bedrooms to men's toilets. The ground floor commercial areas retain some original fabric; however, interior stud walls are generally recent. Both shop premises retain their original pressed metal ceilings, as does the entry to *Geraldton Club*.

## **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Robin Chinnery, Historian, the physical evidence has been compiled by Rosemary Rosario, Architectural Heritage Consultant, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Geraldton Club* is a two-storey building, of brick and tile construction, with shops at the ground floor and club premises at the first floor, designed in the Federation Free style by architects Oldham & Cox for the Geraldton Club, and built by John Keith and Silverlock and Hayes in 1912-13. In the mid-1960s, alterations and additions designed by Colin Rule & Assoc. Architects included conversion of three small rooms to a new billiard room, and construction of two squash courts at the rear of the building.

In 1850, the town of Geraldton, on Champion Bay, was proclaimed, and the first townsite lots were offered for sale in June 1851. In 1856, a convict hiring depot was established. In 1857, the announcement that Geraldton was to be the commercial and government centre for the Victoria District rather than Port Gregory, which was the most northerly official settlement in the Colony at this date, encouraged the establishment of private enterprise. Methodist George Shenton, a shareholder in the WA Mining Co., which established the Geraldine mine at Northampton, north-east of Champion Bay, in the early 1850s, who had first purchased land at Geraldton in 1851, proposed erecting a store and residential quarters at his Lot 50 in Fitzgerald Street. Following the decision to site the jetty and a Customs House at the end of Gregory Street, he purchased the more conveniently located Lot 54 at the corner of Marine Terrace and Gregory Street and the adjoining Lot 53 for his proposed store, which opened in 1857, under the management of his fellow Methodist Henry Gray. In 1858, merchant and shipping agent Daniel Scott, who was also associated with the mines, purchased Lots 51 and 52. The Geraldton Hotel was erected on Lot 51, and later a retail store was built fronting Gregory Street, with a large warehouse.<sup>2</sup>

In March 1861, John Howell Rees, merchant, of Geraldton, was registered as proprietor of two adjoining lots, Geraldton Building Lots 68 and 69, one rood 12 perches and one rood 18 perches in area respectively, a portion of which was the future site of *Geraldton Club*.<sup>3</sup> West of Elwes Street (later renamed Cathedral Avenue), the lots fronted Marine Terrace, the main street, and extended through to the beach.<sup>4</sup> Rees (b. 1821, arr. 1854, d. 1865) established extensive premises on the lots, which were subsequently leased from his Estate by merchant Henry Gray (b. Homerton, England, arr. 1840, d. Victoria, 1899), of Geraldton and Greenough, to whom the property was transferred on 1 April 1868.<sup>5</sup>

Having managed Shenton's store for a period, Henry Gray had moved to Greenough, where he engaged in farming and storekeeping.<sup>6</sup> Gray established a large store in Geraldton, known as Cambrian House, in 1863. Following the deaths of Rees, Daniel Scott and his son-in-law, William Gale, in 1865, and

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<sup>2</sup> Bain, *Sister Mary Albertus, A Life of its own: A social and economic history of the City of Geraldton and the Shire of Greenough, 1846-1988* City of Geraldton, 1996, pp. 59-61; and Thiel, P.W.H. *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia* Perth, 1901, Fasc. Ed. Hesperian press, Carlisle, WA, 2000, pp. 597-98.

<sup>3</sup> Additional information relating to the site prior to the construction of *Geraldton Club* is available on HCWA file PD01069.

<sup>4</sup> ET 1789 and ET 1790; and Plan of Geraldton Champion Bay, 13 December 1877, reproduced in Norris, Constance *Memories of Champion Bay or Old Geraldton* Typescript, 1952, reprinted by Soroptimists International of Geraldton, Geraldton, 1989, p. 122.

<sup>5</sup> Conveyance, Rees to Gray, Bk. 6/2551, and Bk. 7/10, Lands Dept. records, cited in Bain, op. cit., p. 318; and 'Gray's Store' in *Trust News* Sept 2000, p. 6.

<sup>6</sup> Thiel, op. cit., p. 598.

Shenton in 1867, Gray became the only surviving merchant whose business was established at Geraldton in the 1850s-60s.<sup>7</sup>

Henry Gray expanded developed Shenton's store into a large emporium, which grew to become 'one of the most important stores' in Geraldton.<sup>8</sup> An early photograph (c. 1869) looking east along Marine Terrace shows the four roomed house, Gray's store and one of his large warehouses, and on the opposite side of the street, the court house and the bond store in the foreground, and Baston's Victoria Hotel.<sup>9</sup> Gray later built a large, two-storey residence at the rear of his retail store, and some terrace houses along the western and northern boundaries of his landholding, with a high stone wall along the boundary.<sup>10</sup>

From the late 1870s, into the early 1890s, the railway to Northampton ran from the station near the Esplanade Jetty along Marine Terrace as seen in a photograph of the first party of miners to the Murchison goldfields departing from Gray & Co.'s Store, where they had been equipped. East of the store is Hosken's Club Hotel,<sup>11</sup> the first two storey hotel in Geraldton, which opened in May 1885. Acclaimed as 'the most modern in the Colony', it was built for Hannah Hosken, who established a 'Gentlemen's Club' for mine owners, businessmen and pastoralists, in rooms set apart for this purpose, with access restricted to financial members of the club, which 'was actually a gambling centre',<sup>12</sup> an assertion possibly related to members playing cards there. It is likely this was the precursor of The Geraldton Club, believed to have been established for some years before 1894, the first date on its Honour Board.<sup>13</sup> Modelled on the Weld Club (est. Perth, 1871), it was established as a gentlemen's club to provide a social venue for the gentlemen of the town and surrounding district, with various facilities including a writing room and a billiards room in rented accommodation at the Club Hotel, comprising 'spacious' apartments at the first floor, 'fitted up in a most comfortable and elegant manner'.<sup>14</sup> From 1898, through the pre-World War I period, Captain James Cecil Kidd (b. Victoria, 1877, arr. Geraldton, 1895), was Secretary of The Geraldton Club.<sup>15</sup>

After Gray & Co.'s Store at Greenough closed in 1897, its long-term manager, William Moore, an employee since 1865, became manager at Geraldton. In early 1906, Charles Gray and the other inhabitants of Gray's premises were quarantined during an outbreak of bubonic plague, in which Gray died.<sup>16</sup>

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7 Bain, op. cit., pp. 69-72.

8 'Gray's Store' *Trust News* September 2000, op.cit.

9 Photograph reproduced *Geraldton: Then and Now* Geraldton Camera Club, Geraldton, 1989, p.3.

10 Bain, op. cit., p. 72; and Norris, Constance *Geraldton on the Sand: Champion Bay, Western Australia* Self-published, Geraldton, 1954, p. 21.

11 Photograph 'First Team for the Murchison leaving Gray & Co.'s Store' in Thiel, op. cit., and *Geraldton, W. A., Centenary, 1850-1950* Geraldton Municipal Council, 1950, no page nos. Note: After the second railway station was built at Geraldton in 1893, the rails along Marine Terrace were taken up.

12 Bain, op. cit.,

13 Ross Viner, telephone conversation with Robin Chinnery, 30 October 2007.

14 Thiel, op. cit., p. 596.

15 Thiel, *ibid*; Battye, J.S. *Cyclopedia of Western Australia* Cyclopedia Company, Perth, 1912-13, Facsimile Edition Hesperian Press, Victoria Park, Western Australia, 1985, Vol. 2, p. 992, re Captain Kidd.

16 Norris, *ibid*, p. 21. For further information about the plague, refer to Bain, op. cit., pp. 224-27. In 1882, Henry Gray departed for Brighton, Victoria, where he resided until his death in 1899. His wife, Jane, who suffered ill health for many years, resided at Geraldton until she died in 1886, when he remarried. (Norris, *ibid*, p.81; and 'Gray's Store' in *Trust News* Sept 2000, pp. 7-8.

A sketch plan by Mrs. Norris (b. 1887) shows the area of Marine Terrace between Elwes Street and Fitzgerald Street as it was in 1904, with the Club Hotel, Snell's Shop (later part of the hotel), Gray's, the National Bank, Fong Lang's large store and dwelling, a long row of shops, and Cantelo's shop and bake-house at the ocean side of Marine Terrace. In the 20th century, when Lots 68 and 69 were redeveloped, all buildings on site were demolished. In the event of any future development there may be the opportunity for some archaeological investigation of the site of one of the largest commercial enterprises in Geraldton in the 19th and early 20th centuries, including: Gray's large store and showroom, which opened through to a two storey residence;<sup>17</sup> a four roomed house; a number of small tenanted cottages;<sup>18</sup> kitchen;<sup>19</sup> 'a great yard', known as Gray's Yard, with 'very large two storied warehouse buildings, grain stores, and Gray's Hall up some steps' by the boundary to Lots 66 and 67; chaff sheds; a man's room;<sup>20</sup> and, two 'small shops' of timber and iron construction.<sup>21</sup>

In October 1906, Sir E. H. Wittenoom was elected President of the Geraldton Club, with R. G. Kelly as Vice-President. The elected Club Committee were: Frank E. Davis, F. Herbert, H. Wilson, W. A. G. Walter, A. L. Abbott, A. H. Mountain (manager of the Geraldton branch of the well known Australian business of Burns, Philp and Co.), and T. Moustaka (manager of Wainwright and Co., who purchased their hardware division to establish his own successful business in Marine Terrace). The Club had 39 town members and 58 country members. As with similar clubs, women were not permitted as members, but were invited to an annual ladies' evening.<sup>22</sup> In 1907, on the first visit to Western Australia by a Governor General, he was entertained to afternoon tea at the Geraldton Club, at its 'headquarters' at the Club Hotel.<sup>23</sup>

In 1907-08, membership of the Geraldton Club fell to 93, but increased to 95 by September 1908, of whom 49 were town members and 46 country members. E. F. Lacy was elected President, with Charles Conway as Vice President, and R. G. Kelly, A. L. Abbott, A. H. Mountain, Frank E. Davis, A. T. Mills, and Dr A. H. Macmorran on the Committee. In March 1909, they discussed the possible purchase of a portion of Lots 68 and 69, which were being sub-divided, as a site on which to erect the club's own premises. On 22 March, at a General Meeting of members 'to discuss the advisability of purchasing certain property for the future purposes of the Club', the Committee recommended purchasing Lots 3 and 5, with the price to be offered to be fixed following a valuation by H. S. Mackenzie.<sup>24</sup> Directly afterwards, a Committee meeting empowered them to purchase these lots, and Mackenzie revised his valuation of Lot 3 from £863 to £1,000, with Lot 5, at the rear of Lot 3, valued at £500. It was agreed the maximum price to be offered was £1,300 for Lot 3 and £500 for Lot 5, and they were duly purchased at the sale for a total of £1,575. This necessitated the Club borrowing £800, which was raised by debentures among its members.<sup>25</sup> Having

17 Norris, Constance *Geraldton on the Sand* op. cit., p. 21, and *Memories of Champion Bay or Old Geraldton* op. cit., p. 81, and Plan of Indian Ocean, Champion Bay, Geraldton, 1904, in *ibid*, p. 113.

18 Norris, *ibid*, p. 81, and Plan of Indian Ocean, Champion Bay, Geraldton, 1904, *ibid*, p. 113.

19 Norris, Constance, *Memories of Champion Bay or Old Geraldton* op. cit., p. 81.

20 *ibid*.

21 Club Building Geraldton, Plan of Site Oldham & Cox Architects, 1912. Held by Geraldton Club.

22 Minutes, Geraldton Club, 1906. Held by Geraldton Club; and Thiel, op. cit., pp. 595-98.

23 Minutes, Geraldton Club, 1907; and Thiel, op. cit., p. 598.

24 Minutes, Geraldton Club, 10 March 1909.

25 *ibid*, 22 March 1909, and Geraldton Club, half yearly report, 31 March 1909. T. Moustaka was the only person to oppose the motion. (Minutes, *ibid*.)

secured the site 'most suitable for the future purposes of the Club', until such time as it was ready to progress with building club premises, the existing buildings on the lots were leased to tenants.<sup>26</sup>

In December 1909, after the Trustees of Gray's Estate agreed to amend the subdivision plan so Lots 3 and 5 were not separated by a right of way and to ensure that there was sufficient room for vehicles turning in the rights of way at each side of Lot 3, sub-division of Lots 68, 69 and 70, as per Plan 3075, was approved.<sup>27</sup>

In February 1911, a Special Meeting of the Committee of the Geraldton Club considered sketch plans by architect Marwood, but decided they were 'hardly suitable for the Club requirements', and resolved that the Secretary (Captain Kidd) request Club member architect and surveyor, A. E. Cox, of Oldham & Cox, architects and surveyors, of Perth, to prepare suitable plans.<sup>28</sup> In 1893, Alfred Edward Cox (b. Adelaide, 1869) had travelled to Geraldton and proceeded to prospect on the Murchison goldfields, where he pursued his profession, being responsible for the design of many of the buildings at Cue, and 'erected several of the public buildings on the fields and at Geraldton' while employed in the Civil Service.<sup>29</sup> In 1905, he entered into practice with architect Charles Lancelot Oldham (b. Ballarat, 1865), and their practice was well established by 1911.<sup>30</sup>

In 1911, the Geraldton Club sought to purchase the lot (Lot 4) adjoining their site from the Trustees of Gray's Estate, who set the asking price at a minimum of £1,000, as the buildings had been valued at £750.<sup>31</sup> In November, a Memorial of Conveyance between the Executors of Gray's Estate and the Trustees of the Geraldton Club, Sir Edward Horne Wittenoom, Arthur Housemayne du Boulay and William Burges was registered for Lots 3 and 5, and part of Lot 4 (which would provide a carriage way for entrance and light) on Plan 3075.<sup>32</sup> In December 1911, and January 1912, Indentures of Conveyance granted the proprietor(s) of Lots 1 and 2, and of Lot 4, a right of carriage way at their respective sides of Lot 3.<sup>33</sup> In 1912, a site plan shows the rights of carriage way for entrance and light, and existing buildings on Lots 3 and 5, comprising 'small shops' fronting Marine Terrace on Lot 3, and a large galvanized store on Lot 5.<sup>34</sup>

In 1912, most of the prominent gentlemen of Geraldton and the surrounding region whose biographies were included in the *Cyclopedia of Western Australia* were members of the Geraldton Club.<sup>35</sup> In February 1912, the Committee viewed Cox's plans for the proposed Club premises, and it was agreed quotations would be ready by the next meeting in March. Instead, they considered Cox's plan for a new two storey building with three shops at the ground floor and club premises at the first floor, at an estimated cost of £5,421, and negotiated with furniture retailer C. & H. Locke to lease a portion of the shop premises. Lockes proposed using Shops 2 and 3 as one shop, or alternatively Shop 3 and half of Shop 2 for a five

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26 Geraldton Club, half yearly report, *ibid.*

27 Minutes, Geraldton Club, July-Aug 1909; and Plan 3075, Geraldton Town Lots 68, 69 and 70.

28 Minutes, Geraldton Club, 12 May 1909, 7 Dec 1910, and 3 Feb 1911.

29 Battye, *op. cit.*, Vol. pp. 628-29.

30 *ibid.*

31 Minutes, Geraldton Club, Feb-Nov 1911.

32 Memorial of Conveyance Book XVII No. 23, 7 November 1911.

33 Certificate of Title Vol. 1049 Fol. 468.

34 Club Building Geraldton, Plan of Site Oldham & Cox Architects, 1912. Held by Geraldton Club.

35 Minutes, Geraldton Club, 1911-12; and Battye. *op. cit.*, pp. 987-1006.

year period. The architect agreed these two shops could be built as one shop that could be readily altered 'at any future date without a great deal of expense'.<sup>36</sup>

On 7 August 1912, a Special General Meeting of the Geraldton Club unanimously agreed 'to erect buildings on Lots 3 and 5 of Geraldton Town Lots 68, 69 and 70, to provide shops for letting on the ground floor and Club premises on the first floor', and empowered the Committee to purchase furniture, to a maximum total cost of £6,000, a substantial sum, and authorised borrowing to that amount.<sup>37</sup> Next day, the Committee met with Cox and approved Sketch 1, with a minor amendment to enlarge the Strangers' Room and reduce the size of the lobby and telephone room. Oldham & Cox consulted with Lockes regarding their requirements, prepared plans and specifications, and called tenders.<sup>38</sup> Eight were received, but none accepted as the lowest, from John Keith, was £5,540. Cox proposed some changes to reduce the cost by £340, including reducing the height of the top storey from 14 ft to 13 ft, setting the building two feet back from the front path, omitting nickel fittings to shop fronts and having wood mountings enamelled, and white ordinary glass instead of plate glass or figured glass (although an insurance claim, in 1918, was for plate glass at the west shop), and Keith's second tender was accepted and T. Roberts appointed Supervisor.<sup>39</sup>

The plans show the two storey *Geraldton Club*, designed in the Federation Free style, with a prominent and distinctive, separately roofed, tower-like feature for the corner entrance to the Club, and verandahs at the front and rear of the building. At the ground floor, angled doors at the main entrance to the Club open to a foyer, with stairs leading to the first floor, and a store room at the rear. As per Lockes' requirements, the east shops are a single large shop, with a sliding door at the rear opening to a large covered yard beneath the rear portion of the first floor. The west shop was also designed to open to a covered yard, but an amendment shows instead a room with galvanized corrugated iron walls. At the first floor, the stair landing opens to the writing room (that also opens from the adjoining lounge), to the Strangers' Room, which has a lift in one corner (extant in 2007) and, via entrance doors at the west, to the spacious hall. It opens to two small card rooms, and to the lounge and the reading room that opens to the balcony at the front of the building. At the east side of the hall are a telephone booth and a small lobby opening to the Strangers' Room and the bar, which also opens from the corridor leading to a store, latrines, shower, and three bedrooms at the east side, and the billiard room at the west. This room and the corridor open to a balcony the full width of the building, with stairs leading to the ground near the eastern end. A central light well allows light to the hall, corridor and billiard room. From the rear of the building, a pathway leads to the closets.<sup>40</sup>

In 1912, the 'old building' on the front of the Lots was sold, and site works commenced.<sup>41</sup> In December, the House Committee agreed to tuck-point the front portion of the building. On 24 December, before a large number of members, foundation member Arthur Houssemayne Du Boulay laid the foundation stone for *Geraldton Club*, and proposed the success of the building and continued success

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<sup>36</sup> Minutes, Geraldton Club, February-March 1912.

<sup>37</sup> Minutes, Geraldton Club, 17 July and 7 August 1912.

<sup>38</sup> *ibid*, 7 August 1912.

<sup>39</sup> *ibid*, October-November 1912, and 1918; *Geraldton Express* 7 October 1912, p. 2; and *W.A. Mining, Building and Engineering Journal* 19 October 1912, p. 24.

<sup>40</sup> Club Buildings Geraldton, Oldham & Cox Architects, 1912. Held by Geraldton Club.

<sup>41</sup> Minutes, Geraldton Club, 13 November 1912.



of the Club. President M. J. Logue, supported by Vice-President, Dr Adam Henry Muir Macmorran, conducted the proceedings.<sup>42</sup>

In late January 1913, John Keith advised that for financial reasons he could not continue work on the building unless he received a further payment of £300, asserting he had completed work to the value of £1,200 but had received only £700. He was prepared to continue work on the project with day labour if the Committee was unable to assist him financially. They agreed to pay him the amount requested as his third progress payment, and work continued. In late February, after Roberts reported Keith had temporarily left the contract and the foreman was temporarily carrying on with the work, Cox was authorised to secure abandonment of the contract with Keith and to release him without any further obligation. In February-March, tenders were called for completion of the building, and Silverlock & Hayes were awarded the contract at £4,598.<sup>43</sup>

On 24 April 1913, at a Special Committee meeting, Cox suggested erecting the rear staircase to the ground on the west side rather than the east as shown on the plan, which was approved. Also approved was a grille in the storeroom, a 400 gallon water tank above the rear verandah, a gas stove in the Billiard Room, and provision of a room for the Secretary, who with the architect was to select sites for two 1,000 gallon water tanks at the rear of the building. In May, the Committee agreed to install electric lighting and gas for cooking and heating only.<sup>44</sup> In June, debentures to the value of £3,925 were issued to fund the building, with prominent and wealthy members such as A. E. Grant Moustaka and Logue, taking up the largest number. A Special Committee meeting agreed to reserve one of the bedrooms for a resident Club Steward; and to have the Club's monogram embossed on the entrance door (extant in 2007), and 'Members' Only' and 'Visitors' Room' on the respective doors.<sup>45</sup>

In August 1913, it was reported the recently formed Mercantile Club would occupy 'the Geraldton Club's present property', i.e. the apartments at the Club Hotel, when the Geraldton Club 'crosses the road to its more palatial quarters'.<sup>46</sup> In September, it was agreed the Secretary could have use of one of the bedrooms, unfurnished, at a cost of 5s per week. Some of the Club's existing furniture was transferred to the new premises, including the billiard table, and new furniture purchased, including a card table from C. & H. Locke, who was the first tenant of the two eastern shops (1913-17), a Mission Chair from Roberston & Moffat, and a new billiard table from Allcock & Co.<sup>47</sup> These tables and some other original furniture remain at the place in 2007.<sup>48</sup>

On 22 September 1913, the Geraldton Club moved into its new building, which was nearing completion.<sup>49</sup> In early October a large galvanized iron warehouse, about 64 ft x 24 ft, 'at the back of the premises recently erected for the Geraldton Club', recently vacated by contractors Jenner and Haffner, was sold, with

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42      *ibid*, December 1912. Note: Re M.J. Logue, Dr. Macmorran and A.H. Du Boulay, refer to Battye, *op. cit.*, Vol. 2, p. 969 and pp. 987-88.

43      *ibid*, Minutes, Geraldton Club, Jan-Mar 1913; *Geraldton Express* 24 Feb 1913, p. 2; *Geraldton Guardian* 25 Feb 1913, p. 2; and *WA Mining, Building and Engineering Journal* 1 Mar 1913, p. 23.

44      *ibid*, Minutes, Geraldton Club, 24 April 1913.

45      *ibid*, June 1913.

46      *Geraldton Guardian* 28 August 1913, p. 2.

47      *ibid*, August-November 1913, and March 1917, when Lockes' tenancy was transferred.

48      Site visit, Robin Chinnery and Rosemary Rosario, August 2007.

49      Minutes, Geraldton Club, *op. cit.*, 22 October 1913.

removal required by 25 October, 'to make room for other improvements'.<sup>50</sup> On 17 October, the Geraldton Club held a dinner to celebrate the opening of its new premises, and held its Annual General Meeting at the place, at which Dr Macmorran was elected President and W. McKenzie Grant as Vice-President. At this date, the latest cost estimate for the project totalled £5,948 5s 8d.<sup>51</sup> The shop at the west was leased to Joseph Mose for five years, but it was sub-let in 1916.<sup>52</sup> From 1913, the shops have provided a continuous source of income for the Club.

In 1914, a fence was erected at the rear of the property and the back yard was leveled and planted with grass. A flagstaff donated by F. A. Trigg was erected on the building.<sup>53</sup> A 1915 photograph of Marine Terrace shows the Club Hotel (later Shepherd's Hotel) and *Geraldton Club*, with the ground verandah to the shops, with sign boards for the businesses, extending over the footpath, and the first floor verandah above.<sup>54</sup> In the late 1980s, a photograph of this area shows the building following removal of the front verandah in the post-World War II period.<sup>55</sup>

During World War I, some members of the Geraldton Club, and steward, Bert Clark, enlisted in the Armed Forces, and others assisted the war effort in other ways including making sandbags.<sup>56</sup> In 1916-17, the tiled roof required repair, and following an architect's report the Club advised Oldham & Cox the construction was faulty and sought a refund for the expenses incurred.<sup>57</sup> Roof problems are a recurrent theme in the Minute Books through into the 21st century.<sup>58</sup> In 1917, Lockes' lease was transferred to Mr. Woodward.<sup>59</sup> Post-war, tenancy of 'the big shop' at the east changed a number of times.<sup>60</sup> In early 1920, the Club agreed to the removal of the glass partition 'back to the second pier', as shown on the plan, and fitting of a window at the west shop for the tenant, Mrs Mouritz.<sup>61</sup>

In the 1920s, membership of the Club grew slowly, from 129 in March 1919, to 48 town members and 86 country members in 1927, which declined during the Depression to 43 of each in 1931.<sup>62</sup> In 1924, a proposal to establish a bowling green on the vacant land at the rear of the building did not eventuate as members did not take steps to form a bowling club. A subsequent proposal to establish a tennis club came to fruition, and a lawn tennis court, formed by private subscription of some members, was laid at the rear of the place in 1925.<sup>63</sup>

In mid-1927, A. R. Wilson, who had been leasing the larger shop, transferred to the small one. The larger shop was leased to Charles Lupp for his company, General Motors Ltd., subsequently Lupp Motors Ltd., and the part occupied by

50 *ibid*, 8 October 1913; and *Geraldton Express* 26 September 1913, p. 2.

51 Minutes, Geraldton Club, 22 October 1913.

52 *ibid*, 22 October 1913, and January-August 1916.

53 Minutes, Geraldton Club *op. cit.*, October 1913-July 1914, and Report to 30 September 1914.

54 Photograph, 1915, in *Geraldton: Then and Now* Geraldton Camera Club, Geraldton, 1989, p. 15; and in *Geraldton: A Photographic History* Geraldton, Local Studies Department, Geraldton Regional Library, 2004, p. 35.

55 Photograph, 1988, reproduced in *Geraldton: Then and Now* *ibid*.

56 Minutes, Geraldton Club, 1914-18.

57 *ibid*, June-August 1916, and 6 June 1917.

58 *ibid*, 1917 to 2005; and Jocelin Stokes, conversations with Robin Chinnery and Rosemary Rosario, August 2007.

59 Minutes, Geraldton Club, 14 March 1917.

60 *ibid*, 1921-30.

61 *Ibid*, 14 January 1920; and Club Buildings Geraldton, Oldham & Cox Architects, 1912, *op. cit.*

62 *ibid*, Half yearly reports from 31 March 1919 to 31 March 1931 .

63 *ibid*, May 1924 to February 1926.

the Primary Producers' Bank was leased to the Bank for three years. In March 1928, Lupp was granted a three year lease. Later that year, the company was renamed W. A. Young Motors Limited, which occupied the shop into the post-World War II period.<sup>64</sup> In 1929, permission was granted to enlarge their portion of the shop by removing the partition to the Bank premises at the rear.<sup>65</sup> In the Depression period, Young Motors' sub-let part of the premises to other tenants.<sup>66</sup>

On 1 March 1933, Raymond Armitage, bootmaker, of Marine Terrace, Geraldton, was registered as owner of portion of Geraldton Town Lot 68, Lot 4 on Plan 3075, which shows the rights of carriageway adjoining the site of *Geraldton Club*.<sup>67</sup>

In 1935, architect Tom Roberts prepared plans for alterations to the visitors' room and bar at *Geraldton Club*, but as both tenders for the project were too costly it did not proceed. Following further problems with the roof, Roberts recommended re-tiling with 'a hard burnt clay-tile', and it was re-roofed with Brisbane & Co. tiles in 1936.<sup>68</sup> Roberts also prepared plans for alterations and additions to the place at an estimated cost of £200.<sup>69</sup> Further research may ascertain details, and whether any work was implemented, but Ross Viner's recollections of the place as it was in the 1950s indicate little if any change occurred. On 23 July 1936, a Certificate of Title for Lots 3 and 5, with a total area of one rood, 27 and six-tenths perches, in the ownership of The Geraldton Club Incorporated, was registered.<sup>70</sup>

In 1938-39, *Geraldton Club* was connected to sewerage, and the bathroom was altered. In 1939, the iron roof to the rear balcony was replaced with corrugated asbestos roofing.<sup>71</sup>

In the 1940s, as part of the Empire Training Scheme for the Air Force, No. 4 Training School was established at Geraldton. In December 1941, Japan entered World War II, and Geraldton was 'designated a battle station' in 1942.<sup>72</sup> From 1941, the Geraldton Club permitted use of its courts by RAAF officers on Wednesday afternoons in conjunction with members, and on Saturdays the courts were turned over to officers' exclusive use during the tennis season.<sup>73</sup>

In February 1949, the first Holden car to arrive in Geraldton was photographed in front of the showrooms of Young Motors at *Geraldton Club*. The photograph shows the shop fronts, the verandah extending over the footpath and signage.<sup>74</sup>

In the late 1940s, the Vice-President of the Geraldton Club was Gerry Throssell, of the Agriculture Department, who co-discovered an indigenous clover favourable to the region, eventually named Geraldton clover, in 1950.<sup>75</sup>

In 1952, a Vice-Regal reception was held at *Geraldton Club* during the Governor's visit to Geraldton.<sup>76</sup> In March 1953, Bert Pepperell, of Geraldton

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64      *ibid*, July 1927 to 1955.

65      *ibid*, April-May 1929.

66      *ibid*, 1931-32.

67      Certificate of Title Vol. 1033 Fol. 272.

68      Minutes, Geraldton Club, 8 January 1936; and Account Book, Geraldton Club, 1936.

69      Minutes, Geraldton Club, May 1935 to July 1936.

70      Certificate of Title Vol. 1049 Fol. 468.

71      Minutes, Geraldton Club, June-September 1939.

72      Bain, *op. cit.*, pp. 247-50.

73      Minutes, Geraldton Club, 1943-45.

74      Photograph, First Holden Motor Car to Arrive in Geraldton, Feb 1949. P966, Pictorial Collection, Local Studies, City of Geraldton Regional Library.

75      Minutes, Geraldton Club, 1949; and Bain, *op. cit.*, p. 260.

Building Co. Pty. Ltd., which became one of the largest building companies in the region, presented plans for proposed alterations to *Geraldton Club*, but it was decided to await an improvement in the Club's financial position. In December, a Special Meeting discussed a proposal to alter the bar from its existing position to the billiard room, but this was not implemented until the 1960s.<sup>77</sup> From 1954, the question of resumption of a portion of Lot 5 by the Municipality for a proposed ocean drive concerned the Geraldton Club, as it would impact on the size of the tennis court and would be a factor in the lease to Young Motors.<sup>78</sup>

In the 1950s-1960s, many local government authorities in the metropolitan area and regional towns ordered removal of street front verandahs to buildings such as shops and hotels, considering them to be a safety hazard. In March 1955, the Municipal Council advised the Geraldton Club that the 'front balcony' of the place had to be removed.<sup>79</sup> Following its demolition, three balconettes were erected by Geraldton Building Co. Pty. Ltd.,<sup>80</sup> which, in 1958, roofed over the light well that had been leaking water into Young Motors' office.<sup>81</sup> In 1960, it was agreed new men's toilets were required, ladies' toilets were desirable, and extensive bar alterations, provision of catering facilities and retention of the tennis court were recommended.<sup>82</sup> In 1961, the building sub-committee recommended proceeding with the alterations, later implemented by Geraldton Building Co. Pty. Ltd.<sup>83</sup>

In December 1963, notice was given of resumption of 7.9 perches of land at the rear of Lot 5 for road purposes, which was gazetted in February 1964.<sup>84</sup>

In the post-war period, as the use of motor vehicle transport became widespread and town members came to outnumber country members, use of the bedrooms had decreased. In 1964, it was agreed to dispense with this facility, enabling conversion of the smaller card room to a kitchen.<sup>85</sup> A 1965 plan by Colin Rule & Associates Architects shows the Club following this and the other alterations that converted the bar and Strangers' Room to a games area, the store, men's toilets and three bedrooms to a ladies' toilet, new men's toilet, showers, change room, and caretaker's store, the billiard room to a lounge room with a bar. The original lounge room is shown as a games room/billiards room and the writing room as the visitors' room.<sup>86</sup> The plan shows the proposed new ground floor shop toilets, the rear timber verandah and store beneath, the escape stairs with well underneath, and the lower toilet (construction date not ascertained) as areas to be demolished for improvements.<sup>87</sup> Plans for proposed alterations and additions prepared by this practice show a new extension at the rear comprising two squash courts, gallery and stairs. At the first floor, mock fireplaces were to be removed from the lounge room (where the bar counter was to be replaced),

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76 Minutes, Geraldton Club, 1952 to 1965.

77 Minutes, Geraldton Club, March 1953; and *Geraldton: 150 Years, 150 Lives* op. cit., Local Studies, Geraldton Regional Library, p. 42, re Geraldton Building Co. Pty. Ltd.

78 Minutes, Geraldton Club, 1954-63.

79 *ibid*, 16 March 1955.

80 *ibid*, April-October 1955; and Account Book, Geraldton Club, 1956.

81 *ibid*, Minutes, Geraldton Club, 1940, and March-May 1958; and Ross Viner, conversation with Robin Chinnery, site visit, 1 August 2007.

82 Minutes, Geraldton Club, *ibid*, October 1960.

83 *ibid*, August 1961 to 1965.

84 *Government Gazette* 20 Dec 1963, 21 Feb 1964; and Certificate of Title Vol. 1049 Fol. 468.

85 Minutes, Geraldton Club, 1946 to March 1964.

86 Club Buildings Geraldton, op. cit.; and Existing Survey & Location Plan Geraldton Club Inc., Colin Rule & Assoc. Architects, PHA SROWA Cons. 2578, Item 2578, June 1965.

87 *ibid*.

reading room, kitchen and card room. Walls between the three latter rooms were to be removed to create a new billiards room, and the existing games/billiards room was shown as a new games room. The existing games room was to become the reading room, to which the sink from the kitchen was to be relocated.<sup>88</sup> Subsequently, the latter room was fitted out to become the kitchen, and the so-called new games room became the ballroom/dining/function room, which is well used for these purposes by the Geraldton Club and other organizations such as Rotary, which meets there on a regular basis.<sup>89</sup>

In 1977, Feilman & Associates' survey of Significant Places for the Town of Geraldton gave *Geraldton Club* a Grade 2 category, and recommended retention of its original character, restoration of its shop fronts and verandahs, and up-grading of the interior.<sup>90</sup>

In 1990, a sketch of *Geraldton Club* by Mike Lloyd shows the front façade, with signage for tenant Solomon Carpets, and the east side of the building.<sup>91</sup>

In 1996, *Geraldton Club* was re-roofed,<sup>92</sup> but as the tiles were not tied down it has not proven entirely satisfactory, necessitating periodic attention to the roof tiles.<sup>93</sup> Around 1998, the kitchen was refurbished.<sup>94</sup> In June that year, *Geraldton Club* was included in the Municipal Inventory for the City of Geraldton, and ranked at a High Level.<sup>95</sup>

By the late 1990s, membership had decreased to 47. In recent years, women have been admitted as members, although they continue to be a minority. Efforts to increase membership, and continuity of management under Kim Stokes, have seen overall membership increase to about 80.<sup>96</sup> In 2007, *Geraldton Club* continues in use for its intended purposes, i.e. shop premises leased to tenants at the ground floor and Club premises at the first floor.<sup>97</sup>

## 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Geraldton Club* comprises a two storey brick and tile building in the Federation Free architectural style<sup>98</sup> built in 1912-13, and a salmon brick addition at the rear built in the 1960s. The original building, designed by Oldham and Cox Architects, had shops at the ground floor level and club premises on the first floor. The 1960s addition was designed by Colin Rule and Associates Architects and comprises two squash courts. The original building also underwent some additions in the 1960s, contemporary with the squash courts development. There are no other built features on the site.

*Geraldton Club* is located on the western side of Marine Terrace in the Geraldton town centre, on a site that extends through to Foreshore Drive to the west. Marine Terrace is the main commercial street in Geraldton and comprises

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- 88 Proposed Alterations & Additions to existing premises Marine Tce., for The Geraldton Club, Colin Rule & Assoc. Architects, March 1965.
  - 89 Ross Viner and Josceline Stokes, conversations with Robin Chinnery, site visit, 1 August 2007.
  - 90 Feilman & Associates' Survey of Significant Places for the Town of Geraldton, 1977.
  - 91 Geraldton Club, Mike Lloyd, 1990. Local Studies Collection, Geraldton Regional Library.
  - 92 Minutes, Geraldton Club, 1996; and Josceline Stokes op. cit.
  - 93 Josceline Stokes op. cit.
  - 94 ibid.
  - 95 Municipal Inventory City of Geraldton Adopted 23 June 1998.
  - 96 Ross Viner and Josceline Stokes op. cit.
  - 97 Site visit, Robin Chinnery and Rosemary Rosario, August 2007.
  - 98 Apperly, et al, pp. 138-39.

commercial buildings from a range of periods from the late 19th century to the present. To the south of *Geraldton Club* is a two-storey commercial building contemporary with *Geraldton Club*, and on the northern side is a modern building on the site of former buildings that included the Club Hotel where *Geraldton Club* met prior to the construction of their own building in 1912-13. The eastern side of Marine Terrace features a similar mix of buildings, including an early 20th century building that currently houses the Mercantile Club Inc. established circa 1913, which is believed to have occupied the Club Hotel when Geraldton Club vacated its original premises.

Continuing south along Marine Parade, the street is lined with a number of single and two storey commercial buildings from the late 19th to mid 20th centuries. A number feature parapets, pediments and painted rendered facades and other features typical of Federation era architecture. Many that originally featured verandahs have had these removed and replaced with the flat pavement awnings that characterise the commercial centres of most Western Australian country towns. Similarly, the majority of buildings have contemporary shop fronts at ground floor level. The building adjacent and to the south of *Geraldton Club*, does not have an awning but features Juliet balconies at first floor level where a former verandah has been removed. This detail is similar to the first floor treatment of *Geraldton Club*.

*Geraldton Club* site comprises an area of approximately 1,500 sqm, including the area occupied by the rights of way located on each side of the building. *Geraldton Club* is constructed with a zero setback from its eastern boundary on Marine Terrace. There are bitumen sealed access-ways on each side of the building. There is a pair of tubular steel framed, cyclone mesh gates at the entry to the southern right of way that leads to the parking area behind the building. The right of way on the northern side of the building terminates half way down the side of the lot, at the rear entry to the adjacent building. There is a 1.8m high metal panel fence on the southern side of the northern right of way at the back of the building, with a gate to the rear parking area. The southern right of way leads to the rear car park and has a corrugated fibrous cement fence along the southern boundary at the rear of the lot. The car park has a crossover from Foreshore Drive. There is a low brick wall approximately four courses high along the western boundary on either side of the crossover. The car park is bitumen sealed. On the western side of Foreshore Drive the foreshore area has been landscaped with walkways between the road and the shores of Champion Bay.

*Geraldton Club* is a two-storey brick and tile structure designed in the Federation Free architectural style. The club facilities are at first floor level with commercial premises on the ground floor. Entry to the club is from a door in the truncated corner of a projecting tower on the north-eastern corner of the building.

The eastern façade, addressing Marine Terrace, is dominant and features tuck pointed face brick in stretcher bond with cream coloured mortar. The tower element on the north-eastern corner of the building has a truncation on the corner at ground floor level, a curved wall at first floor level and a square profile at eaves level under a pyramidal roof form. The main entrance to *Geraldton Club* is on the truncated corner of the tower element. On either side there are oval window recesses with deep stucco reveals. There is stucco banding on the tower at sill and head height and a highly decorative plaster frieze above the first floor level in line with the cornice on the main elevation. Above the decorative band are several courses of face brickwork terminating with a cornice featuring pebble dash render with pairs of timber brackets supporting the wide eaves overhang

with timber battened soffit lining. The same eaves detail continues along the eastern elevation facing Marine Terrace.

The eastern side of the building originally featured a two-storey verandah; however, this was removed in 1955, and the three pairs of French doors that originally opened onto the first floor verandah now open onto concrete cantilevered Juliet balconies with wrought iron balustrades. The French doors are original timber panelled doors with glazing to the upper panels and small paned fanlights above.

The ground floor façade of the eastern elevation comprises the entrances to the two commercial premises. The façade retains the original configuration of re-entrant doors and some original elements. The frames to the glass windows retain some original metal posts but have been modified to incorporate new doors and the original glass panels above the windows have been removed. There is a low rendered plinth that has been painted blue along the base of the windows, and this continues around the base of the projecting corner tower to the northern elevation.

The north and south elevations of the building comprise mainly original fabric at the eastern end with some alterations towards the rear. Elevations are face brick with alterations carried out in a brick closely matching the original. All the original windows remain extant on the southern elevation both at ground and first floor levels. The windows are timber framed double hung sash windows, some of which are constructed as pairs within a single frame. The three first-floor windows to the current bar area have been retained and are evident on the exterior of the building, however they have been blocked from the inside. There are metal grilles over the ground floor windows. At the back of the building two openings to the original open undercroft area retain their original steel beams and brick piers; however original corrugated iron linings have been replaced with infill of rendered brickwork. There is a recent timber framed door and window arrangement in one, and glass louvre windows in the other. There are two air-conditioners on the wall at the eastern end of the south elevation, but otherwise it is largely intact.

On the north elevation the openings to the undercroft have been filled with red face brickwork with banks of louvre panels at the top. However, the original openings can still be seen in the wall and the original brick piers are extant. Towards the front of the building all the original door and window openings are extant; however, an original door has been removed and replaced with a fixed panel. The ground floor windows are double hung timber sash windows with metal grilles fixed externally. At first floor level the original windows and openings are extant, apart from the windows to the toilets where original openings have been partially bricked in and replaced with small vented bathroom windows.

The west elevation has been altered by the removal of an original verandah and is now partially obscured by the construction of the 1960s squash courts addition. At first floor level the original French windows have been removed and replaced with aluminium-framed windows and the wall has been rendered and painted. There is no evidence of the former ground floor windows on the west elevation.

The main roof comprises a double-hipped roof form with a central valley, and a pyramid roof to the tower on the north-east corner. The roof was originally terracotta Marseilles profile tiles but these have been removed and replaced with dark grey tiles giving the building a heavy appearance.

There is a light well in the centre of the building with an original flat metal panelled roof in a hipped form over the ground floor area. Windows from the first floor lobby open into the light well, which has been tiled over at roof level. The windows are double hung sashes with timber frames that are painted green on the outside, and through them the original metal roof is visible.

The 1960s squash court addition is a salmon coloured brick structure with a flat metal deck roof. It contains two squash courts that are accessed from the first floor terrace to *Geraldton Club* premises constructed over the eastern portion of the squash courts.

The ground floor level of *Geraldton Club* comprises two commercial premises. The building was originally constructed with two shops on the ground floor, one of which could be altered to two later if so required. However this did not occur and the building has retained its original configuration to the present. The ground floor now comprises a single width shop at the southern end, currently used by a photography and printing business; and a larger commercial office occupies the remainder of the building.

The southern shop has a recessed entrance on the southern side that leads into a narrow shop with a pressed metal ceiling, timber floorboards and painted plaster walls. There are some recent stud partition walls at the rear of the shop for storerooms and a toilet that was part of the 1960s refurbishment. Fittings and finishes are recent.

The northern commercial suite has a recent recessed entry door and internal stud partitions between offices. The main office space retains the original pressed metal ceiling and original columns. Original structural beams supporting the floor above are evident in the ceiling and are clad with pressed metal. At the back, the roof over the skylight is evident and has been painted over. There are a number of storerooms and other ancillary spaces at the back and north side of the offices, all have recent stud or brick infill walls and utilitarian finishes.

The entrance to *Geraldton Club* is located on the truncated north-eastern corner of the building. Adjacent to the entrance is a marble stone commemorating the construction of the building, laid by A. H. Du Boulay JP on 24 December 1912. The entrance is an arched opening with a blue fabric canopy over the glazed fanlight that occupies the top section of the opening.

The timber panelled entrance doors with a fanlight open into a timber framed panelled recess with glazing to the top section and timber framed double swing doors with embossed obscure glazing featuring Geraldton Club crest. Inside, the doors face the elegant Jarrah staircase with curved bottom tread, turned posts, banisters and balustrade that leads to the club premises above. Under the stairs a panelled doorway leads to a storage area where a dumb waiter takes goods directly to the pantry above. The dumb waiter is original and remains extant; however, the opening above has been modified and the mechanism is no longer in use. The entrance to the store under the stairs was originally from the right of way and the existing panelled door and its frame have been relocated forward of their original alignment.

Finishes in the entry lobby comprise painted plaster to walls, carpet to the floor and stairs and a 350mm deep moulded timber skirting painted white. The ceiling at ground floor level is pressed metal. At the top of the stairs is the entry foyer to the club. A wide passage leads directly to a pair of glazed double doors in an arched opening. On the left, the foyer leads to the visitors' room (formerly the writing room), occupying the space of the corner tower. This room features an



attractive corner window comprising seven narrow, double hung sash windows around the curve of the corner of the building. There is a pair of panelled doors that lead directly from the visitors' room to the dining room (formerly the lounge), located across the front of the building. This room is also accessed from the main foyer however the doors to the foyer are replacement doors in an original opening. The finishes in the foyer, visitors' room and dining room comprise painted plaster walls, 4m high lathe and plaster ceilings with decorative run cornices, picture rails, 100mm wide jarrah floorboards, 300mm high moulded timber skirtings and original decorative plaster wall vents.

The foyer leads to the billiard room on the southern side of the building. This comprises the area originally occupied by three rooms, the reading room at the front and two card rooms at the back. The original configuration is still evident in the walls and in the ceiling where beams are located on the alignment of original walls that have been removed. The floor to the billiards room is vinyl sheet. The finishes to the front section of the billiards room that was formerly the reading room are the same as the foyer, dining room and visitors' room. At the back however the area formerly occupied by two cards rooms has a more utilitarian feel with no cornice, no picture rails and simpler details to window architraves etc.

Openings have been made in the western wall of the billiards room for access to the bar and to the members' lounge adjacent. Formerly there was no direct link between these spaces.

The members' lounge (formerly the billiards room), is located at the back of the building and opens onto the covered terrace constructed as part of the 1960s alterations, on top of the squash courts. The original French doors have been removed and the windows on the west elevation are now a contemporary aluminium framed style. The ceiling is fibrous cement with timber battens, the floor is carpeted with vinyl in front of the bar, which is a contemporary fixture. The original windows on the southern elevation behind the bar are extant, but have been covered by sheets of fibrous cement. Original doors to the passage on the northern side of the room have been replaced with new doors in original openings.

The members' lounge opens on the northern side to a passage that runs from the entry foyer to the covered terrace at the back. An original pair of timber panelled doors opens onto the terrace. There are arches over the passage between the foyer and the passage, and adjacent to the skylight. The kitchen and pantry are located on the northern side of the foyer and, adjacent to the main entry, is a telephone booth. The kitchen occupies the area of the original bar and the original kitchen is used as a pantry. The original wall between these areas has been removed and a new stud wall constructed on a slightly different alignment. In the former kitchen a timber framed structure remains as the upper portion of the dumb waiter. The door has been modified however and the structure is used as a cupboard. The floors to the kitchen and pantry are vinyl, walls are plaster and the ceiling covers the whole area and is probably lathe and plaster as there is no cornice. Kitchen benches and fittings are recent. Doors and windows in these areas are original double hung windows and panelled doors.

Toilets and change rooms are located at the back of the building on the northern side. Fittings comprise terrazzo partitions and modern plumbing fixtures. The fit-out in this area is contemporary with the 1960s alterations and replaced earlier male toilets and three bedrooms that were located at the back of the club premises. The original configuration of rooms has been largely retained, with changes carried out within the original spaces.

The fabric of *Geraldton Club* is in good condition considering the age of the building, constructed in 1912-13. The brickwork is suffering from some quite severe erosion of mortar from joints especially around the window openings to the first floor on the southern elevation. There is evidence of repairs to brickwork on the face of the corner tower element and there is also considerable leaching from render or paint on the brickwork of the façade generally. The roof has been replaced; however, there is evidence of some leaks either through the roof where tiles have moved, or from inadequate roof drainage design.

The joinery of the building is also showing evidence of deterioration especially where it is in exposed locations. The fabric of the covered terrace and the squash courts constructed in the 1960s is also showing evidence of age and deterioration. There is some deterioration of the concrete to the Juliet balconies on the eastern elevation.

*Geraldton Club* retains a high level of authenticity. The main changes include the loss of the original verandahs. The eastern (front) verandah was removed in the 1950s, and replaced with concrete Juliet balconies. The back verandah was removed in the 1960s when the squash courts were added and at that period most of the windows and French doors from the western elevation were removed and, at first floor level, replaced by aluminium framed windows to the new members' lounge. Alterations were also made to the interior including the removal of internal walls to open up the former reading room and card rooms to create the new billiards room. Also at this time the existing toilets and bathroom were converted to ladies toilets and bedrooms to men's toilets. The ground floor commercial areas retain some original fabric, however interior stud walls are generally recent. Both premises retain their original pressed metal ceilings, as does the entry to *Geraldton Club*.

*Geraldton Club* retains its original use as club headquarters for Geraldton Club. The ground floor is still used for commercial purposes to support the activities of the club.

### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

#### **Gentlemen's Clubs**

From the mid-19th century, gentlemen's clubs were established in the Australian colonies to provide a socially exclusive meeting place in the English tradition for prominent gentlemen and their peers. Among the most notable were the Melbourne Club (1858) and the Australian Club (1878), Melbourne; the Geelong Club (1874), Victoria; the Adelaide Club (1863), South Australia; and the Australia Club in Sydney. In Western Australia, the Weld Club (established 1871) leased premises at the north-west corner of Barrack Street and St. George's Terrace, formerly the Perth residence of Fremantle merchant Lionel Samson. Architect (later Sir) J. J. Talbot Hobbs won the *Weld Club's* design competition, constructing a club in a prominent location at the corner of The Esplanade and Barrack Street in 1892. The two-storey building, in the Federation Queen Anne design style, included verandahs on two sides and a square tower belvedere at the street corner. The principal rooms at the ground floor comprised the members' room, dining room, smoking room, reading room, billiard room, stranger's room and the secretary's room. At the first floor, residential accommodation for members provided short-term accommodation, for the Club's

members who resided in the country districts and the North-West and who found it convenient to stay at the Club when visiting Perth.<sup>99</sup>

The Exchange Club was established in 1893, providing facilities for the business fraternity and senior public servants. Similar in outlook to the *Weld Club*, its membership included Premier John Forrest and his brother, Alexander, who were also members of the Weld Club, as were George Shenton and Walter James. From 1893 to 1970, this Club (renamed The West Australian Club in 1897) occupied the premises previously leased by the Weld Club.<sup>100</sup> In 1970, The West Australian Club relocated to new purpose-built premises on The Esplanade. Renamed The Western Australian Club Inc. in 1979, in 1995 it purchased its St George's Terrace premises, a four storey and basement building, designed in the Inter-War Commercial Palazzo style for the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) in 1887.<sup>101</sup>

In the late 19th and early 20th century, a number of private clubs were established in regional towns in Western Australia, including the *Albany Club*, Albany, the first regional gentlemen's club in Western Australia and the second oldest in the State, which continues in operation in the early 21st century. Their substantial premises, a two-storey building in the Victorian style with Italianate elements, was built in 1886-87 as a residence for businessman John Moir. He became a member of the Club, leasing the building to it from 1894, the Club later purchasing the place from his family.<sup>102</sup> At Kalgoorlie, three clubs established in the period 1896-1900 continue in operation in 2007. Designed by local architects, Brookman and Drape, *Hannans' Club* (established 1896) is a single storey stone and brick building with an iron roof in the Federation Arts and Craft design style, to which women members have been admitted since 1982. *Kalgoorlie Club* (established 1898) occupies a single-storey brick and iron building in the Federation Bungalow design style, purpose built in 1903 and designed by Hawkins and Sprigg. It operates as a country club, mainly providing facilities for those interested in sport and gambling. In common with similarly named clubs elsewhere, Tattersalls Club (established 1900) caters for the racing fraternity. A number of clubs proved less long lived, including Coolgardie Club, which opened shortly before Hannans, but closed in 1916.<sup>103</sup>

It has not been ascertained how many gentlemen's clubs were in operation in the first half of the 20th century. Through the 20th century, social attitudes changed and numerous clubs ceased to exist. The buildings of some clubs have been converted to other uses, including the Toodyay Gentlemen's Club (fmr), a single storey brick and iron building (1908), which currently serves as a residence and retail store.<sup>104</sup> Geraldton Club is one of a very small number of such Clubs that continues in operation in its own purpose built premises, a rare survivor from the Federation period in which numerous gentlemen's clubs were established as significant gathering places for the social elite.

*Geraldton Club* is rare as a club built with shops on the ground floor and the club premises on the first floor. As far as can be ascertained, it is comparable only to

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<sup>99</sup> HCWA Assessment 01950, *Weld Club*; Stannage, C.T. *The People of Perth*, Perth City Council, 1979, p. 307; and Louch, T.S. *The History of the Weld Club*, The Weld Club, Perth, 1964, p. 51.

<sup>100</sup> De Mori, C. *A Club for all Seasons: A history of the West Australian Club (Inc.)* The WA Club Inc., Perth, 1990, pp. 9-14.

<sup>101</sup> HCWA Assessment 2110, pp. 3-8.

<sup>102</sup> Interim Entry RHP Albany Club, HCWA Place No. 00003, pp. 1-2.

<sup>103</sup> Assessment Documentation, HCWA Place Nos. 1266 and 15840.

<sup>104</sup> HCWA Place No. 12138.

*Nedlands Park Masonic Hall* (1935), which is a fine and intact two-storey Art Deco building, also incorporating shops on the ground floor.

### **A.E. Cox / Oldham & Cox**

*Geraldton Club* is the only gentlemen's club known to have been designed by well-known architect A. E. Cox, of Oldham & Cox, whose notable body of work included a number of buildings in Geraldton, and is a very fine example of his work in the Federation Free style.

The HCWA database notes eleven other places designed by A. E. Cox or Oldham & Cox, of which eight are Registered. These are:

- *Cue Public Buildings* (1895), a group of five attached single- and two-storey public buildings in the Federation Arts & Crafts style, constructed of granite, including a tower with the town clock.
- *Cue Shire Offices* (1895), a two-storey Victorian Georgian style stone building retaining two-storey front verandahs.
- *Murchison Club Hotel* (1896), a two-storey stone, brick and iron hotel, located on a corner site with two-storey verandahs to the street elevations. The place has been known as 'Murchison Club Hotel' since construction but does not appear to have been associated with a 'Murchison Club'.
- *Cue Municipal Chambers (fmr)* (1896), a single-storey stone building with stucco-rendered walls, in the Federation Free Classical style.
- *Government School, Cue* (1896), a single-storey painted stone and brick Federation Free style school building.
- *Geraldton Town Hall (fmr)* (1907), a prominent corner landmark with two-storey Federation Academic Classical style facades.
- *Wellington Buildings* (1909), a three-storey smooth-rendered brick commercial building that is a landmark on the corner of William and Wellington Streets in Perth.
- 26-68 William Street, registered as part of *William Street Precinct*, a 1906 two-storey commercial building with simple detailing.

It is possible that other Cox-designed buildings entered in the Register have not been identified as such.

### **Federation Free Style**

Sixty-eight of the 169 Federation Free style buildings in the HCWA database are entered in the Register. Many are modest single-storey buildings, predominantly post offices and police stations. Comparable places include:

- *Fremantle Post Office* (1907, Hillson Beasley), which makes similar use of decorative brick banding and is a corner landmark, although a larger building than *Geraldton Club*.
- *Fremantle Technical College* (1913, Hillson Beasley), an imposing two-storey brick-banded building with a decorative gabled parapet above the main entrance.
- *Northam Post Office* (1909, Hillson Beasley), which is a uniquely designed brick building including banded patterning.

- Perth Railway Station (1894, George Temple Poole), part of *Perth Railway Precinct*, a two-storey brick building with a third storey 'tower' section above the main entrance.
- *Midland Post Office* (1913, Hillson Beasley), a two-storey brick building of similar scale to *Geraldton Club* but without a dramatic entry feature.

### **Conclusion**

*Geraldton Club* is a rare Western Australian example of a two-storey building in the Federation Free style, purpose-built as a gentlemen's club. It is also rare as a place incorporating shop premises on the ground floor and club premises on the first floor.

*Geraldton Club* is a good example of a prominent building in the Federation Free style, and of the work of prominent architect A. E. Cox.

### **13. 4 KEY REFERENCES**

No key references

### **13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

Further research in Geraldton Club's records and those held by the City of Geraldton may reveal additional information concerning the early history of the Club in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.